(b) The action taken by States/Union Territories under the Essential Commodities Act, 1955 and Prevention of Blackmarketing and Maintenance of Supplies of Essential Commodities Act, 1980 during the calendar year 2007 as per reports received from them is as under

Under Essential Commodities Act, 1955:

No. of Raids	No. of Persons Arrested	No. of Persons Prosecuted	No. of Persons Convicted	Value of goods Confiscated (Rs. in lakhs)
207339	6474	4481	348	3809.66

Under the Prevention of Blackmarketing and Maintenance of Supplies of Essential Commodities Act, 1980

Name of the State	Details of Detention Orders during the year 2007
Gujarat	50
Tamil Nadu	65
Maharashtra	1
Madhya Pradesh	3
TOTAL	119

Fake ration cards

3426. SHRI VIJAY J. DARDA:
SHRIMATI SYEDA ANWARA TAIMUR:

Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware that under PDS 26 lakh of Maharashtra's 2.34 crore ration cards were found to be fake, and that 7 lakh were in the Mumbai Metropolitan Region and another lot of 1.32 lakh were found in Pune;

(b) if so, whether investigations were made on selective basis in other States also; and

(c) what is the extent of such scams at all India levle and how BPL beneficiaries thus denied the facilities of subsidized foodgrains, are being compensated?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (DR. AKHILESH PRASAD SINGH): (a) As reported by the Government of Maharashtra, it took a special drive during August, 2005 to review then existing ration cards in the State. During this, 29.45 lakh ineligible ration cards were detected and cancelled. Out of these, 6.51 lakh ration cards were deleted in Mumbai and Thane rationing area, and 1.92 lakh ration cards in Pune district.

(b) Under paragraph 2(6) attached to PDS (Control) Order, 2001, State/UT Governments are mandated to conduct periodical checking of ration cards to weed out ineligible and bogus ration cards and bogus units in ration cards. Department has got evaluation of TPDS

conducted by ORG Marg and PEO of Planning Commission. These reports found exclusion and inclusion errors in identification of BPL and AAY families. Based on these reports, a 9-Point Action Plan was evolved. Under this, State/UT Governments have been directed to continuously review the BPL and AAY lists to eliminate bogus/ineligible ration crds to ensure coverage of only eligible BPL and AAY families. As a result of this exercises, so far, 13 State/UT Governments have reported deletion of 67.45 lakh bogus/ineligible cards since July, 2006.

(c) As pointed out in the evaluation studies, there have been errors in targeting of eligible BPL and AAY families under TPDS in States but they are not a scam.

The Government has given instructions to all State/UT Governments to take action as per law against the persons found in possession of bogus or fake ration cards and the Government Staff found responsible for issuing ration cards for ineligible persons.

Global food crisis

3427. SHRIMATI SHOBHANA BHARTIA:
SHRI HARISH RAWAT:

Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the international monitoring agencies have warned of global food crisis as reported in the print media;

(b) if so, whether the production of wheat and rice is much below the actual consumption;

(c) if so, whether in view of remarks of the international monitoring agencies and latest estimates of International Grains Council, Government proposes to take any remedial measures; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (DR. AKHILESH PRASAD SINGH): (a) Agencies like FAO, OECD and IGC during January-February, 2008 had projected hardening of global food prices on account of lowest food inventories around the globe. More specifically, however, in the list of 37 countries worldwide reported to be currently facing food crisis by UNFAO Report No. 2 (April 2008) — "Crop Prospects and Food Situation", India does not feature.

(b) UNFAO Report No. 2 (April 2008) — "Crop Prospects and Food Situation" has forecasted a rise of record 647 million tons (6.8% up from 2007), 441 million tons (1.8% up from 2007) of world wheat and rice production in 2008, respectively, and 1006 million tons of world food consumption of cereals (1% up from 2007).

(c) and (d) Though India is not listed as one of the 37 countries facing food crisis as per FAO's Report No. 2 (April 2008), as also by International Grains Council — Grain Market Report (GMR 376 dated 28.3.2008), the Government in all have initiated many remedial steps to keep Food Security of the country sacrosanct, which broadly, *inter alia*, are (i) Fiscal Measures — reduction of tariffs to zero for rice, wheat, pulses, edible oils and maize, to 7.5% on hydrogenated oils and vegetable oils, to 30% on butter and ghee and withdrawing